



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
)  
SHIMAMOTO *et al.* )  
) Art Unit 2823  
Application Number: 10/020,314 )  
) Examiner  
Filed: December 18, 2001 ) Nguyen, Khiem D.  
)  
For: FABRICATING METHOD OF )  
SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS )  
)  
Attorney Docket No. HIT.A.0143 )  
  
Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This is in response to the office action dated February 10, 2006, in the above identified application, the period for response is set to expire on August 10, 2006, with a three-month extension filed herewith. Prior to taking up the present application for examination, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks. In conjunction with this Preliminary Amendment, a Request for Continued Examination is being filed herewith. Please amend the above-referenced application as follows: